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Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance

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KEEP CLEVELAND DFAS
Excellent People
Excellent Performance
Excellent Value

June 20, 2005

Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance
c/o Edward Howard & Co.
1360 East 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114

To the Honorable Anthony J. Principi and the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission,

My summer internship has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with the local community organization leading the efforts to preserve our Cleveland Defense Finance and Accounting Service office. As a lifelong Ohio resident, I am committed to fighting for the 1,028 important jobs in danger of being lost or relocated.

Of course the estimated economic cost of $128 million comes as a shock to an already struggling area. But the real "bottom line" is that it doesn't make sense to upset military operations during a war. Couple that with my understanding the cost of relocating will actually outweigh the cost savings, and it's easy to see the decision doesn't add up.

Working on the campaign has also provided me with information extending beyond facts and figures. I've had the chance to speak with several DFAS employees who are fearful of losing their jobs and confused as to why an office praised for its operational efficiency and excellent track record is now being threatened. These people are leaving feedback on your website, writing letters to the local paper, and urging their friends and family to do the same. I hope you are hearing their voices.

I have also talked to mayors of local city councils. Today, I am sending you the following letters, resolutions, and proclamations from local municipalities and community leaders for inclusion in your decision making process.

As the Greater Cleveland area collectively gears up for our June 23 visit from General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret) and the hearing which follows in Buffalo, New York, I urge you to consider the people, performance, and value of Cleveland DFAS. The many benefits stemming from our office are essential to this community and our nation.

Sincerely,

Elisa C Benson

Elisa C. Benson
Colgate University, Class of 2006
Public Relations Intern
Edward Howard & Co.